PRISCILLA
JUNIORS'
CROSS STITCH BOOK

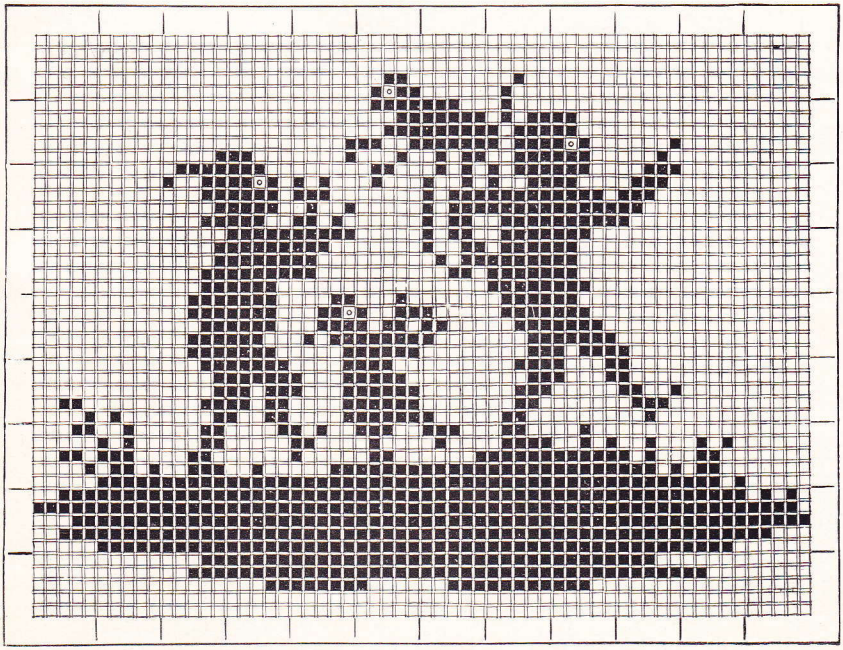
A Lesson Book
for
Children

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CROSS STITCH

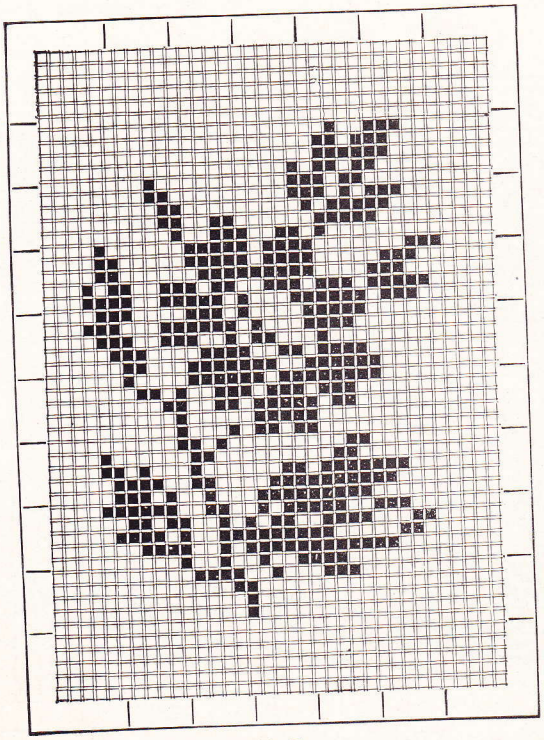
Lesson Book for Children



Monkey and Dancing Children

Materials to Use and How to Make the Stitches

BEFORE beginning to embroider a design in cross-stitch it is necessary to have the proper materials to work with. First of all there must be a regular weave canvas, a fabric having the threads running so that they form little squares all over the surface, for it is by making the stitches over these squares that the pattern is worked out. Then of course we must have thread of the proper size to work nicely on the particular canvas we are to use. If the canvas is coarse or has large squares, we must use a heavy thread; if the canvas has a fine weave, then a fine thread must be used.



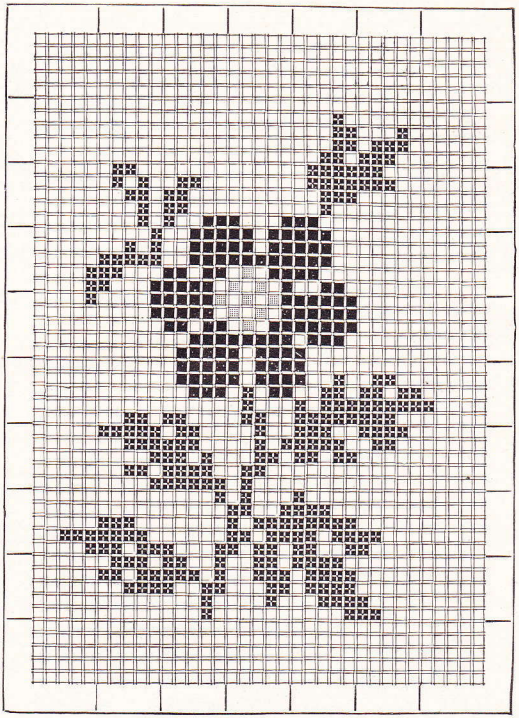
Wild Rose

As for the needle, it must be of a size to suit the thread, one which will thread easily and yet not be larger than necessary. With almost all canvases a blunt tapestry needle is the best to use, as it is not so apt to pierce the threads of the canvas, but passes between them in the proper way. Another advantage of blunt needles is that they do not prick little fingers as the pointed ones do.

Of course there

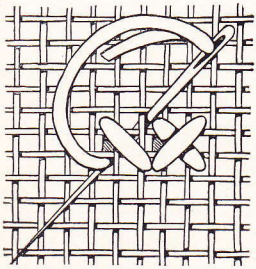
must be a thimble to fit snugly on the middle finger, and now we are ready for the stitches.

Detail 1 at the bottom of page 3 shows the very simplest way of making cross-stitch. Each cross is completed separately. Look carefully at the little drawing on the right and notice how the spaces are lettered A, B, C, and D. Now, choosing spaces on your canvas for these letters, bring the needle from the wrong side up through the space A and put it down at B; bring it up at C and put it down at D. This finishes one cross.



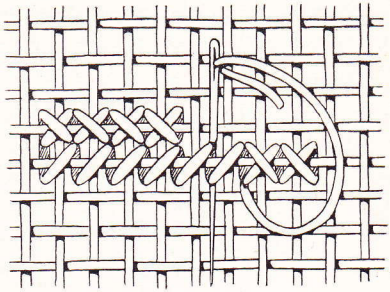
Eglantine

Bring the thread up again at C and you are ready for the next cross on the left. It should be remembered that in cross-stitch all the top threads must lie in the same direction. If some of the crosses are made one way and some the other, the effect is not good; but when they are all made alike, the surface of the work is smooth and pretty.

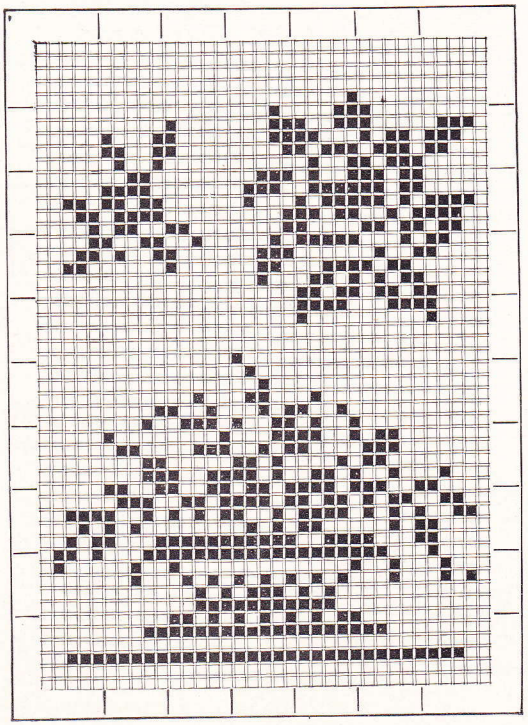


Detail 1. Cross Stitch

ANOTHER method of working crosses is shown in Detail 2. This is especially useful when there are large spaces or long lines to be filled. Beginning at the left, the thread is brought up from the wrong side and all the right oblique stitches made for the entire row; this makes half of each cross in the row. Now work back to the left again, putting in the top stitches and finishing the crosses as illustrated. In this way the work is done row by row instead of each cross being made separately.



Detail 2. Another Way of Making Crosses

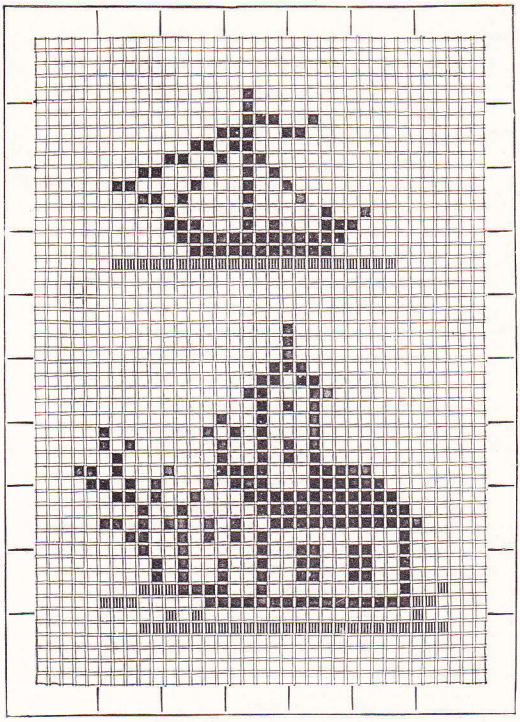


Basket of Flowers

Care must be taken to always bring the needle up and put it down through the middle of the little opening and not stick it through the threads of the canvas, nor through the other stitches. The ends of the crosses should just touch, and the threads should all be drawn with the same tension, not having some tight and others loose.

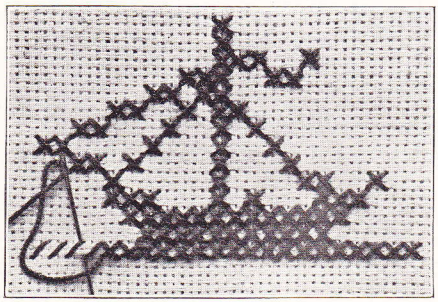
The size of the crosses is not only

dependent upon the mesh of the canvas which is being used, but also upon the number of threads of the canvas over which the stitches are made. The crosses may be made over one or two, or even more, threads, but care must be taken to always have the crosses form a square. If the crosses are made over three threads, then count three threads up and three threads across.



Church and Boat

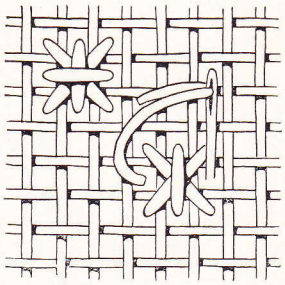
In Detail 3 a little boat is worked on Java canvas, the stitches being taken over two threads of the canvas which makes the crosses just the right size.



Detail 3. Cross Stitch Worked on Canvas

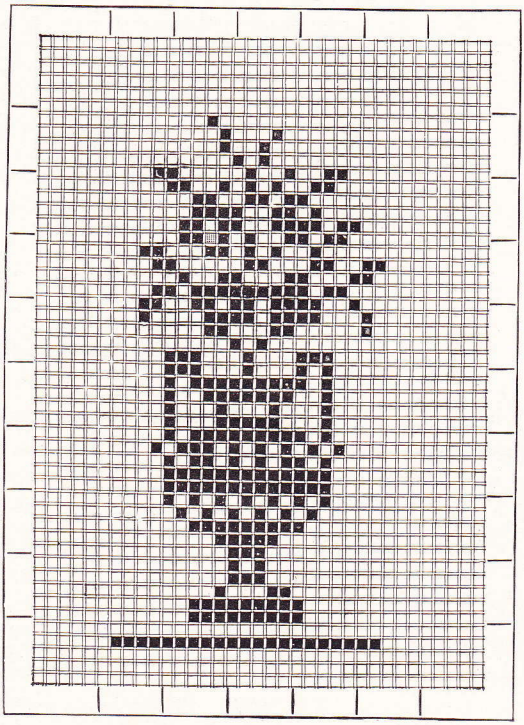
Of course, if the crosses are made small, then the design will come small, so if you wish to reduce a design, use a fine canvas and fine thread; to enlarge a design use coarser material, or make the crosses over more threads of the canvas.

BESIDES the simple cross, there are other stitches used for cross-stitch patterns, one of the most popular and effective ones being the star-stitch, which is shown in Detail 4. This consists of an oblique cross and a vertical cross, one made over the other, and is very useful in filling rather large squares, which would not be quite filled with a single cross.



Detail 4. Star Stitch

In making this stitch, first make the oblique cross from corner to corner, then put in the vertical thread and the horizontal thread, thus finishing the star. The detail shows plainly how this is done.



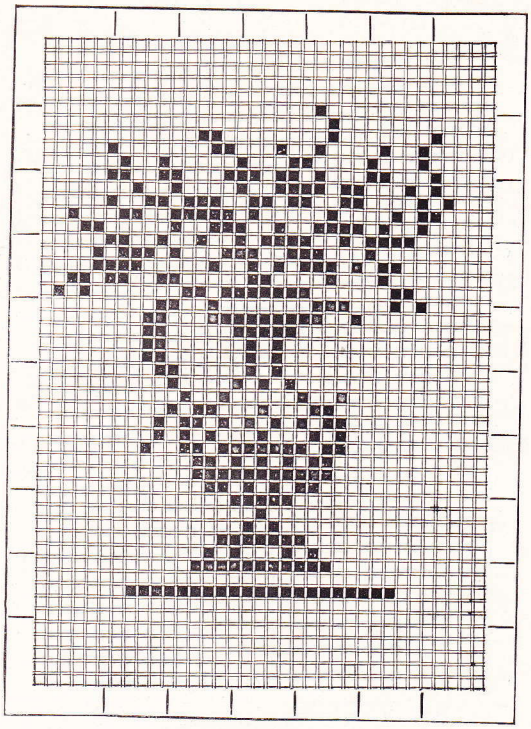
Vase of Flowers

If the canvas used is divided into large squares, the stars are necessarily rather large, and therefore the design will come large, so this must be taken into consideration before the work is commenced and the space to be filled planned for accordingly.

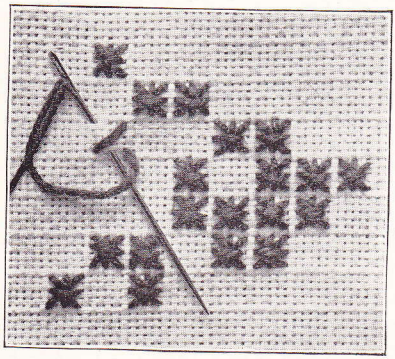
Any material which is divided regularly into squares can be used for cross-stitch, so pretty checked gingham, such as is

used for little girls' frocks, is suitable for many simple border patterns. Sofa-pillows can be made of the gingham, and a pattern may be worked out in the star-stitch, by making the stars of some color on the white spots. Also dolls' dresses and bedspreads may be ornamented in this way. In this book are many pretty borders which are suitable for these purposes.

Detail 5 shows the star-stitch worked on mosaic canvas, a canvas so named because of the raised white thread which divides the surface into squares and comes between the embroidered stitches, giving the finished piece the effect of mosaic work. The squares are one-fourth of an inch in size, so the star-stitch, made with a fairly heavy thread, is especially suitable for this particular weave of fabric.

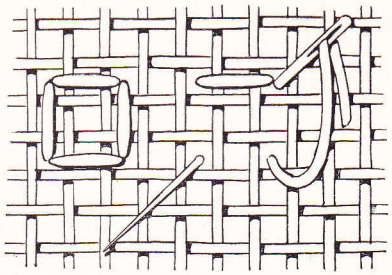


Vase of Flowers



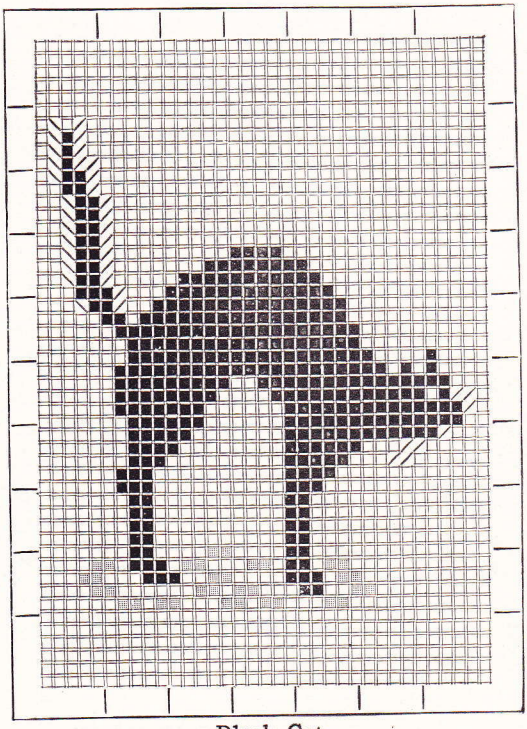
Detail 5. Star Stitch Worked on Mosaic Canvas

THE Holbein stitch, which is shown in Detail 6, is a single straight stitch, which is sometimes combined with cross-stitch embroidery. It is made on the diagonal, or with the threads of the canvas, as the case may require, and is especially useful in finishing out any part of a design for which complete crosses seem too heavy.



Detail 6. Holbein Stitch

For example, the black cat on this page has whiskers and the hair on his tail is standing out. Now crosses would not do for these parts, but the single oblique line is just what is needed. It is simple and easy to make, and gives the desired effect, as no other stitch could do.



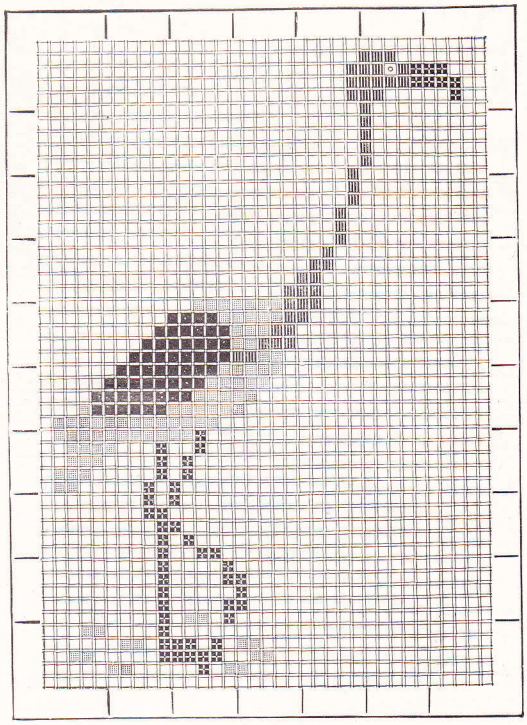
Black Cat

This stitch is sometimes called "back-stitch," as it is made by sticking the needle back into the same opening through which the last stitch came out, when it is worked around a square or on a straight line.

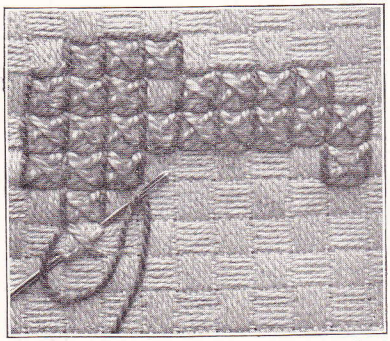
Another application of the Holbein stitch is its use as an outline around any space which is to be more

strongly brought out in the design. Sometimes the entire design is outlined with this single-line stitch in a darker color, or black, and is so made to stand out more distinctly than it would otherwise.

On a canvas having large squares, this stitch may be used around every square, outlining each cross and filling up the design more closely than the crosses alone would fill it. When two shades of a color are used, the lighter for the crosses, and the dark for the outlining, the effect is very satisfactory.



Crane

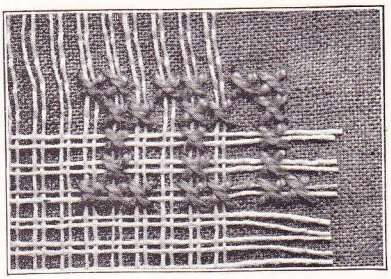


Detail 7. Holbein and Cross Stitch

Detail 7 shows such a combination of the Holbein and cross-stitch on Berlin canvas, which comes in an écru shade and in the pleasing weave shown in the illustration.

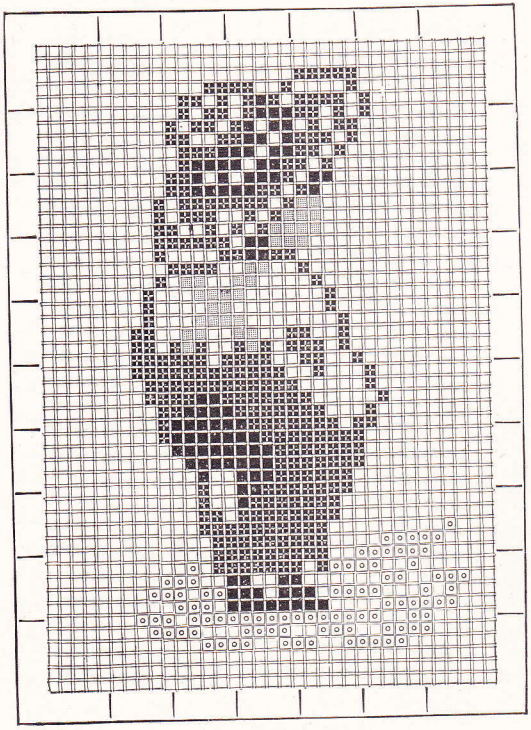
The crane is to be embroidered in four shades, as shown by the different tones. Many of the designs in this book show different coloring.

OFTEN it is desirable to embroider cross-stitch designs upon other fabrics than canvas, such as linen, huckaback, or any material not having a square weave, and there is a very practical and simple way to do this,—it is by working over the threads of a loose canvas which has been basted upon the linen, then drawing the canvas away thread by thread. Detail 8 shows the letter "M" worked over Penelope canvas and the canvas partly removed.



Detail 8. Cross Stitch Worked Over Penelope Canvas

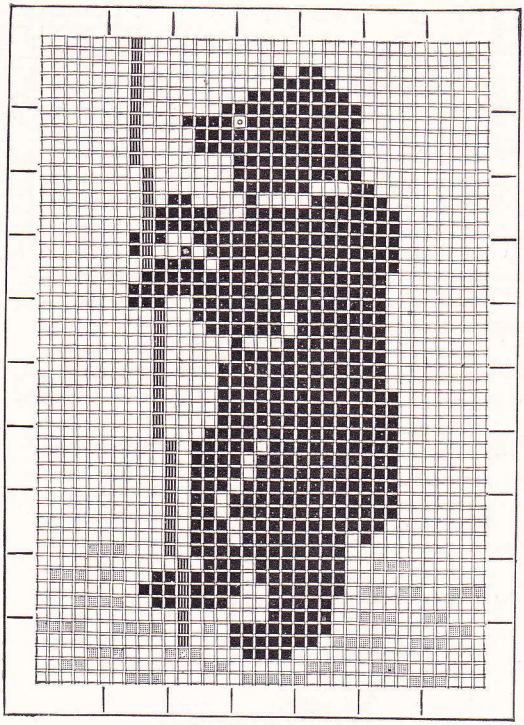
This canvas is starched to keep the threads in place, but it softens in handling, so that when the embroidery is finished there is no trouble in removing the threads. It is firmly basted over the spot where the cross-stitch design is to be embroidered, then the stitches are made in the usual way, letting them pass between the meshes of the canvas and through the linen beneath. The canvas serves only as a guide in



A Fat Little Boy

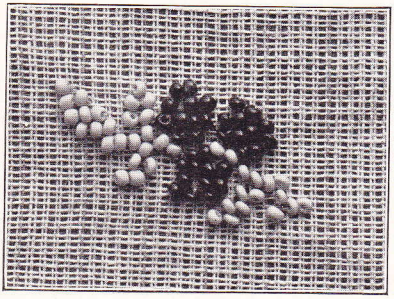
placing the crosses, so care must be taken to have the stitches end exactly in the centre of the spaces, and not by any chance pass through the threads of the canvas.

After the embroidery is entirely finished, the canvas is cut close to the design and the threads carefully drawn out one by one. This leaves the pattern neatly worked on the linen with no sign of the canvas.



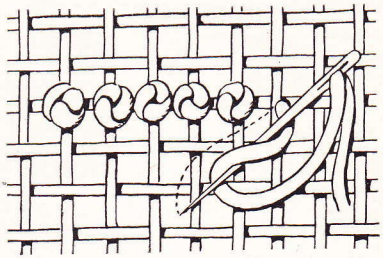
Bear Climbing a Pole

Any cross-stitch pattern can be used for bead-work by sewing a bead in place of each cross. If small beads are used, of course a fine canvas is required, for the beads should lie close together. In making bead bags, the beads are sewed on the fine Penelope canvas as a foundation, letting the bright colored beads form the design, and having the entire background around the design filled with a solid plain color. No canvas shows when the work is done.

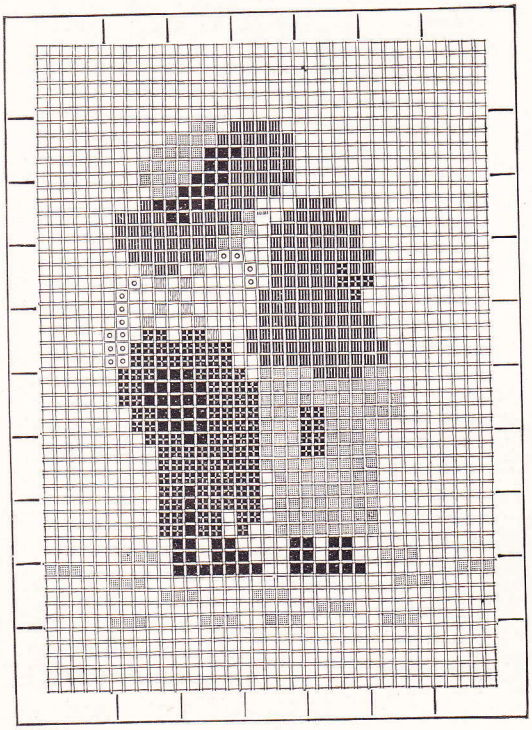


Detail 9. Beads on Canvas in Cross-Stitch Design

FRENCH knots can also be used in working cross-stitch patterns, simply by using the knots instead of crosses; but the knots must be placed on the crossings of the threads of the canvas instead of in the openings, otherwise the knots will slip through to the wrong side. Of course, if Penelope canvas is being used simply as a guide in working the pattern on some other fabric, then the knots must be placed within the openings, so that the canvas can be removed when the work is finished.



Detail 10. French Knots Used Instead of Crosses



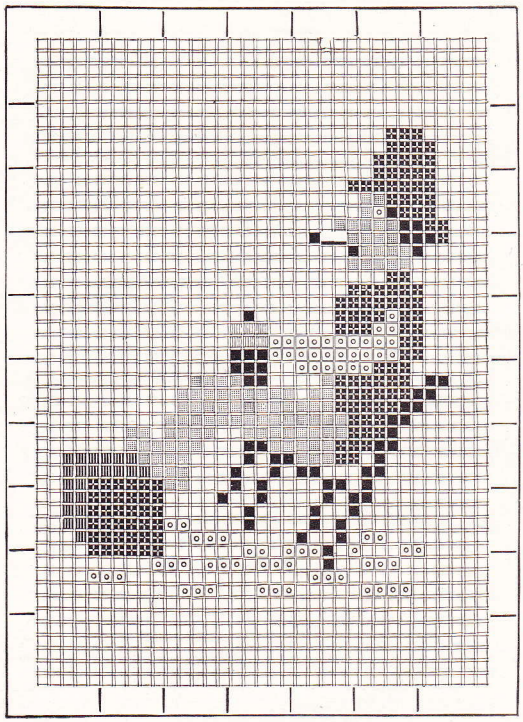
Two Children

Detail 10 shows just how the French knots are made. The thread is brought through to the right side, then it is twisted around the needle, as shown in the illustration, and the needle put back into the same place. If a heavy thread is used, only one twist of the thread around the needle is needed; but with fine thread it must be twisted several times to make the knot large enough

to fill the desired space.

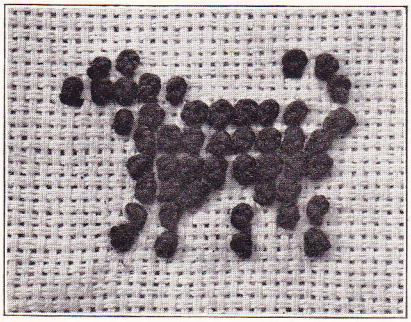
Any cross-stitch design whatever can be carried out in French knots, if the proper canvas and thread are used, for the knots should fill the pattern quite closely if the design is to be brought out clearly.

Detail 11 shows a little dog worked in French knots on Java canvas. This is taken from page 19, where there are other small figures which may be worked in this manner.

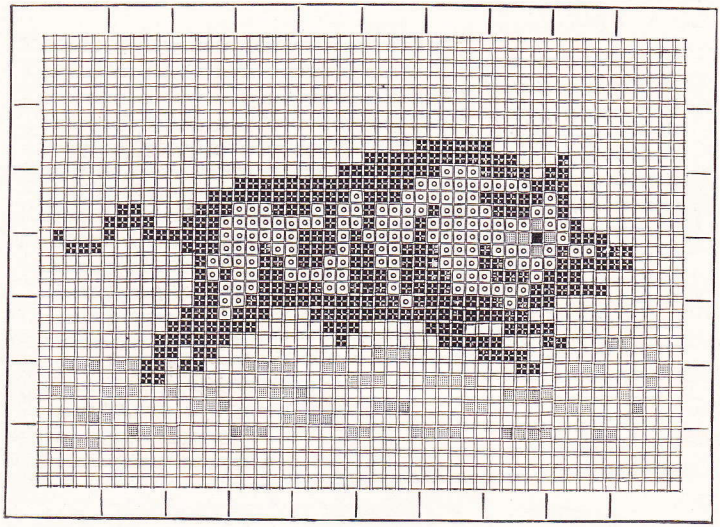


Man Smoking a Pipe

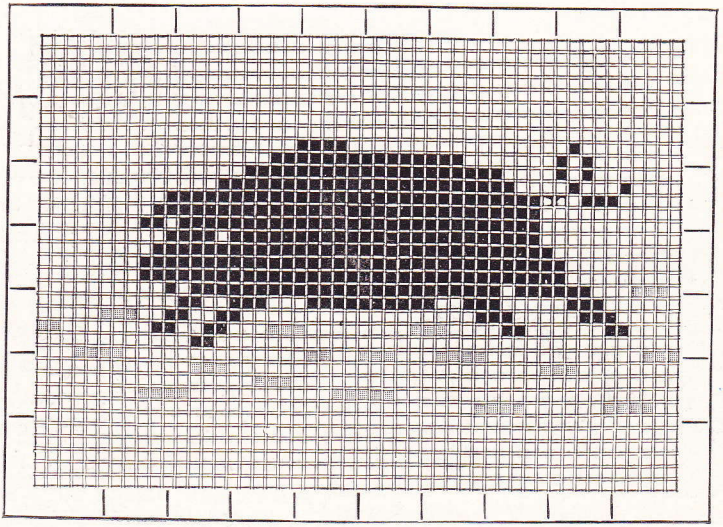
The wreaths, festoons, and borders in this book are suitable for ornamenting all kinds of household linens and children's dresses; the alphabets are for marking towels, scarfs, napkins, etc.; and the figures will be found especially interesting for children to work on sofa-pillows, samplers, baby's eating-bibs, and dolly's rugs and bedspreads.



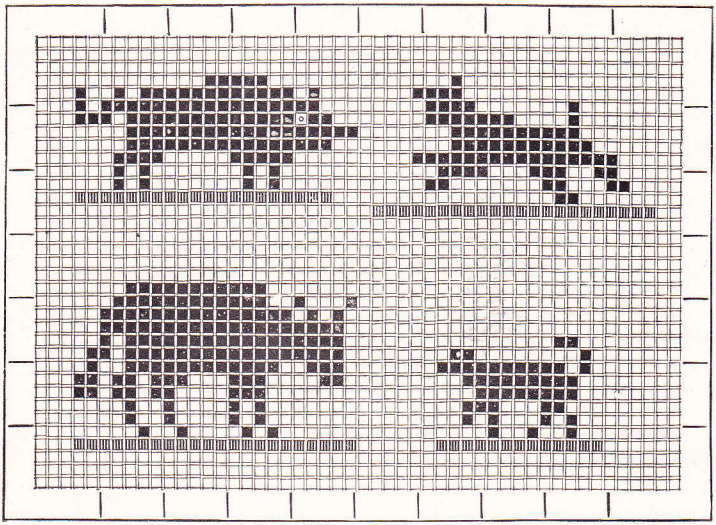
Detail 11. Design Worked in French Knots



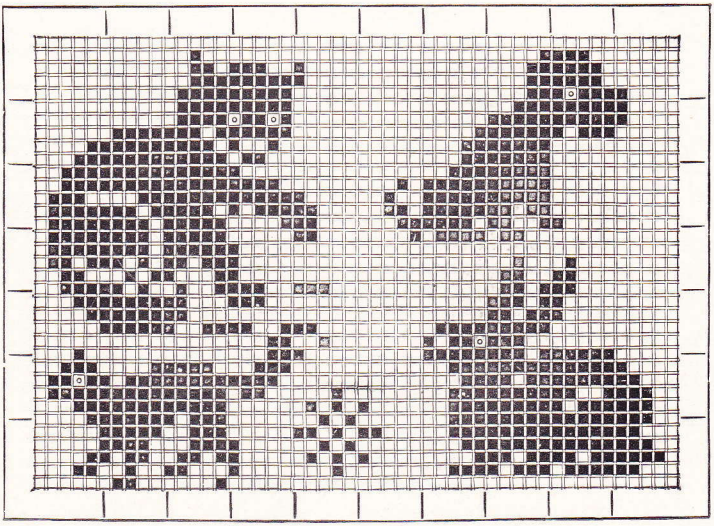
Wild Boar



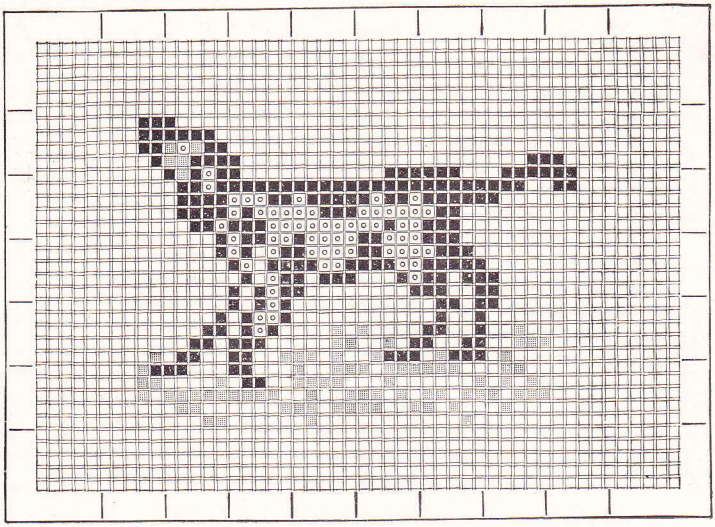
Domestic Hog



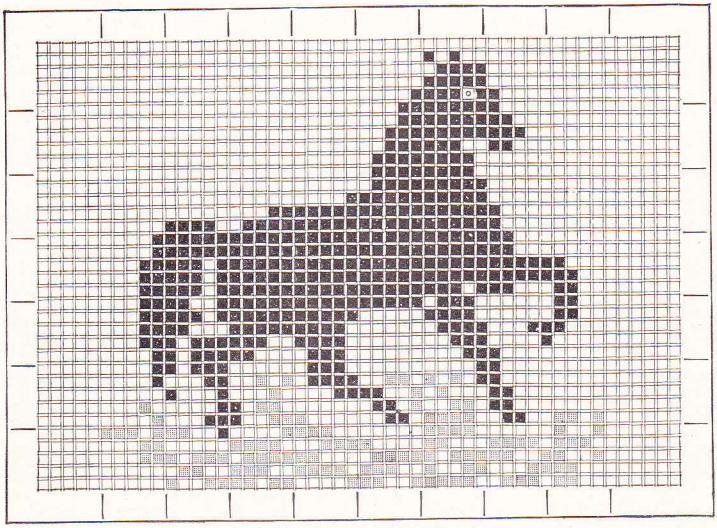
Pig, Cow, and Dogs



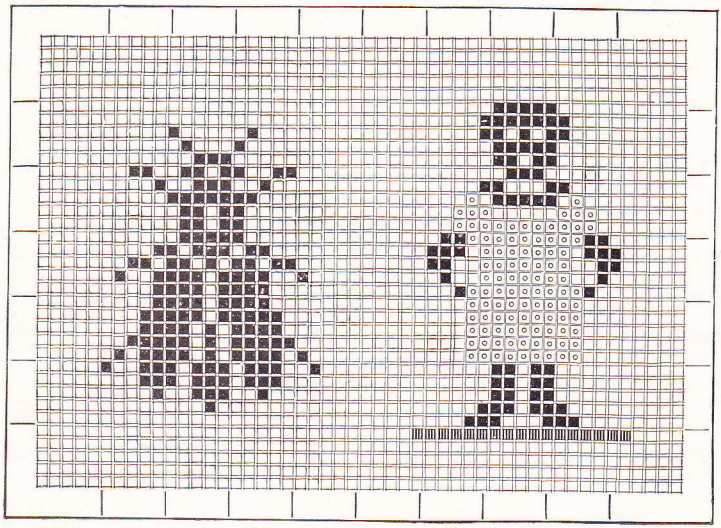
Cats, Puppy, and Rabbit



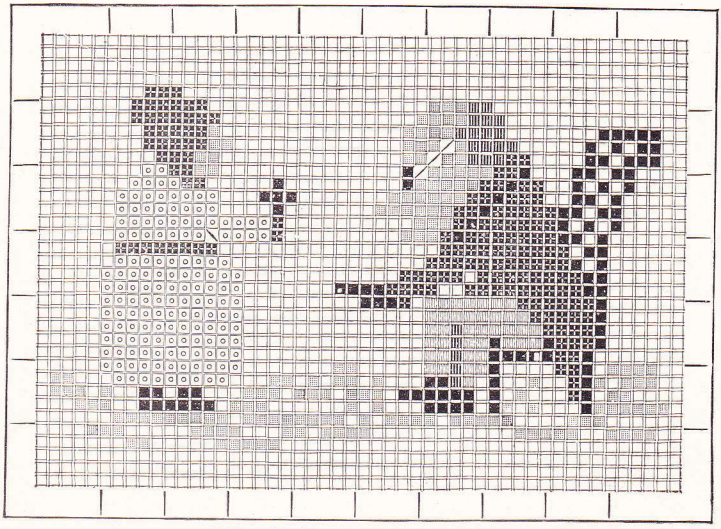
Setter Dog



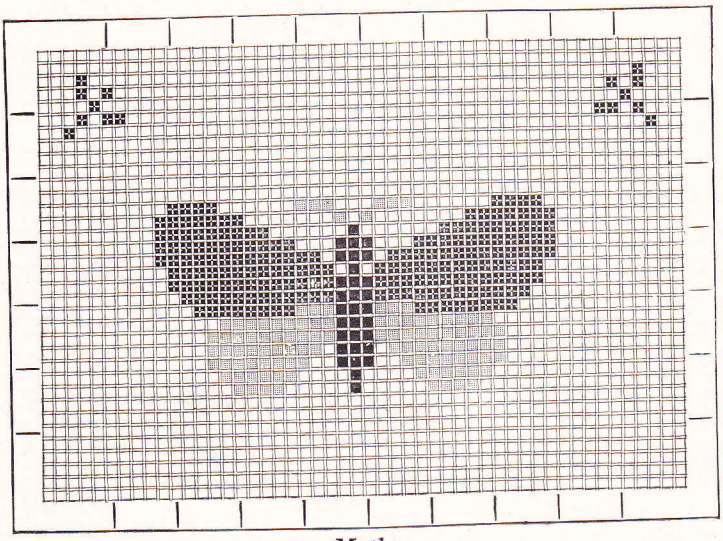
"Black Beauty"



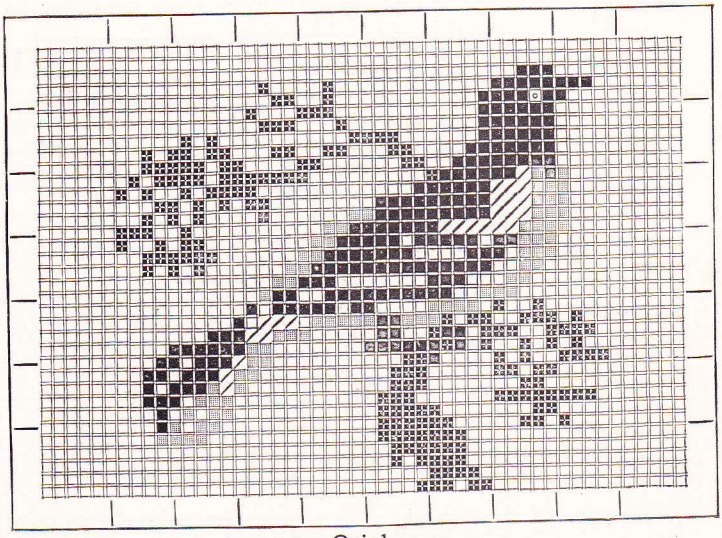
Fly and Black Child



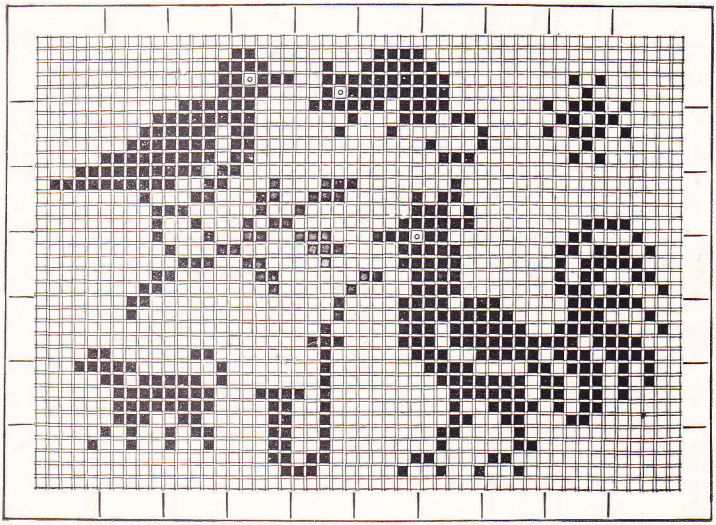
The Priest and the Ogre



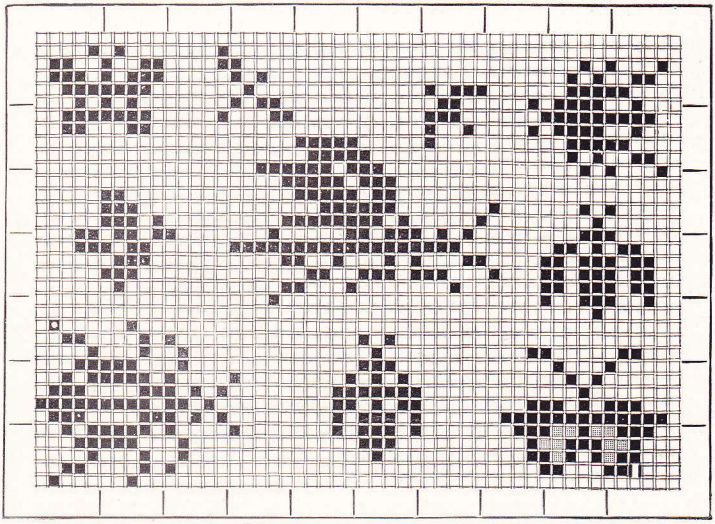
Moth



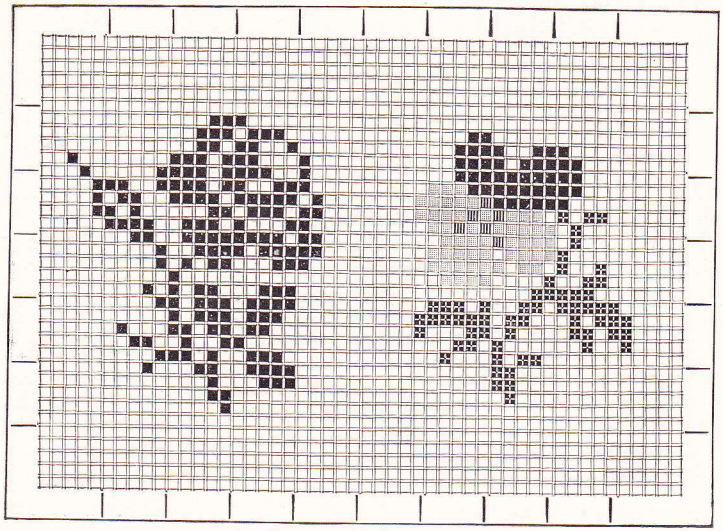
Oriole



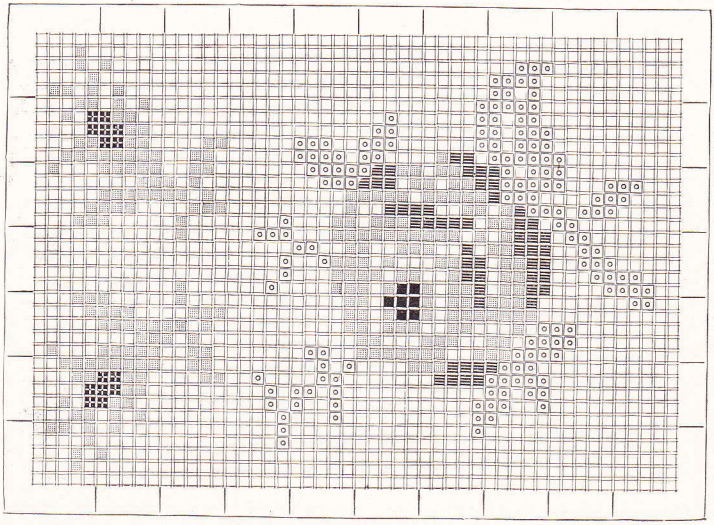
Bird, Mouse, Dog, and Rooster



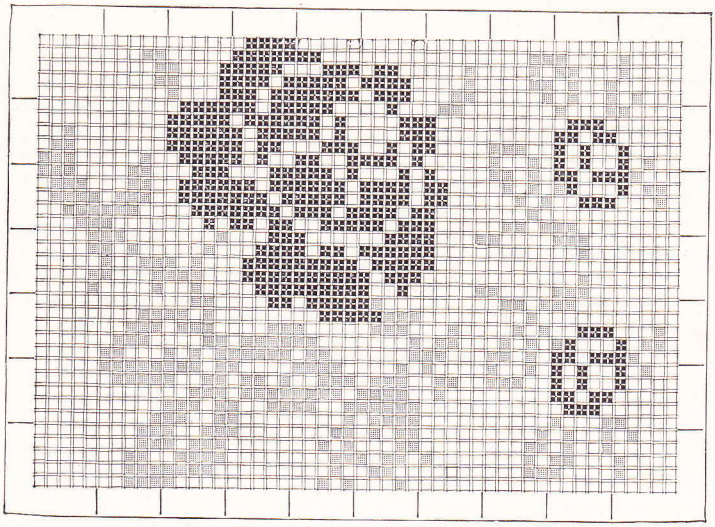
Bugs and Flies



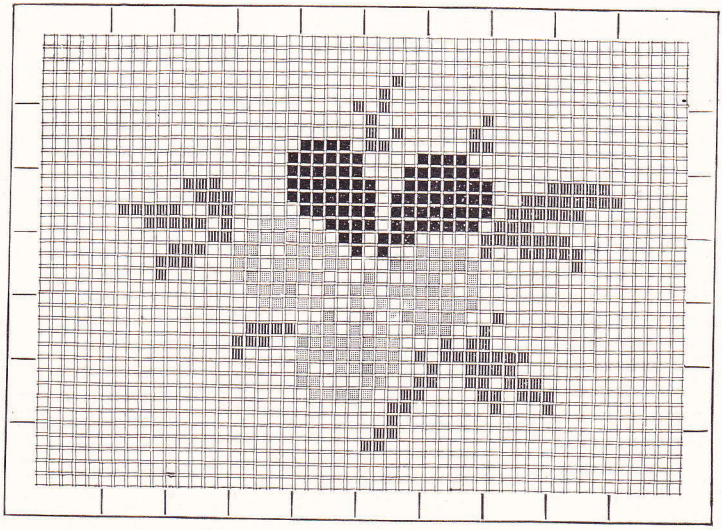
Rose and Pansy



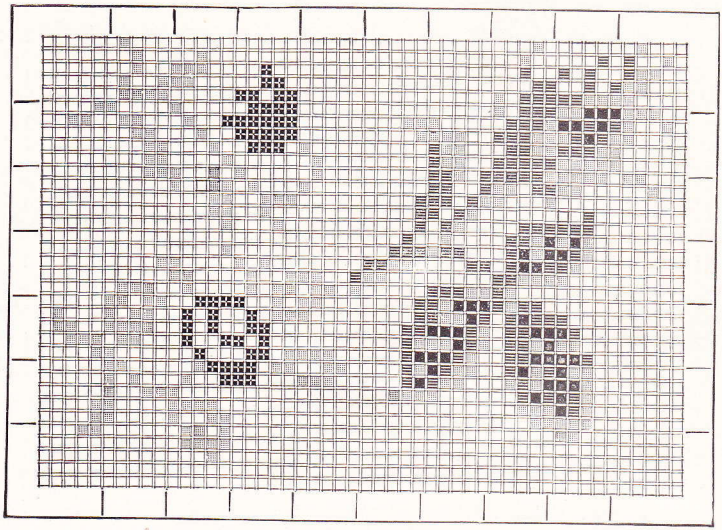
Double Rose



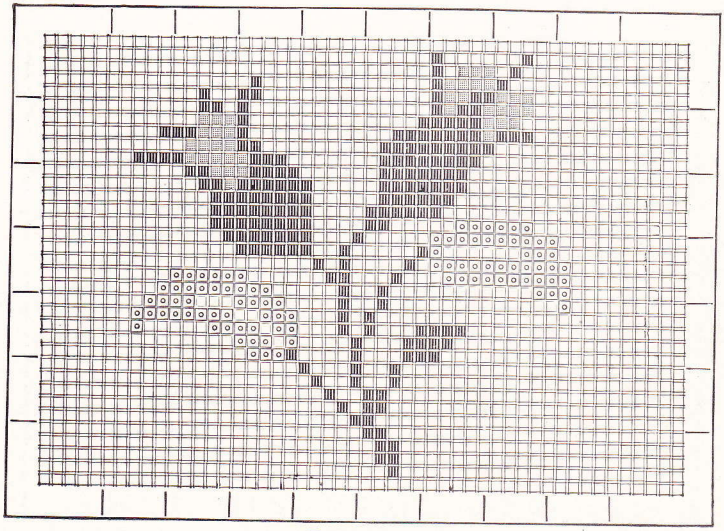
Rose Spray and Buds



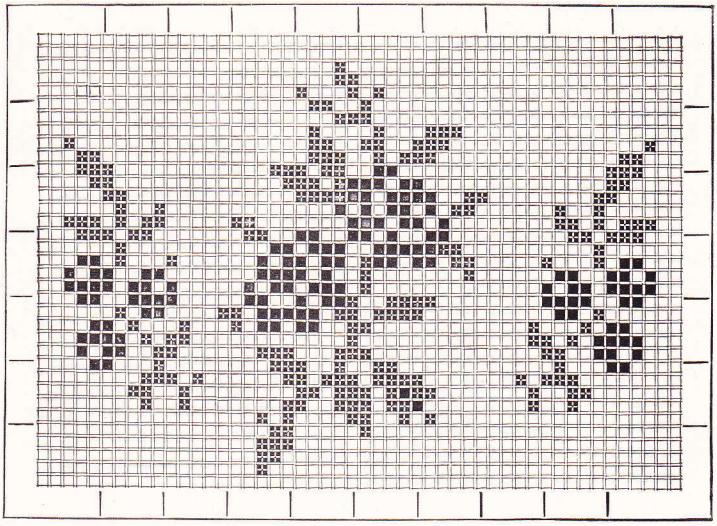
Pansy



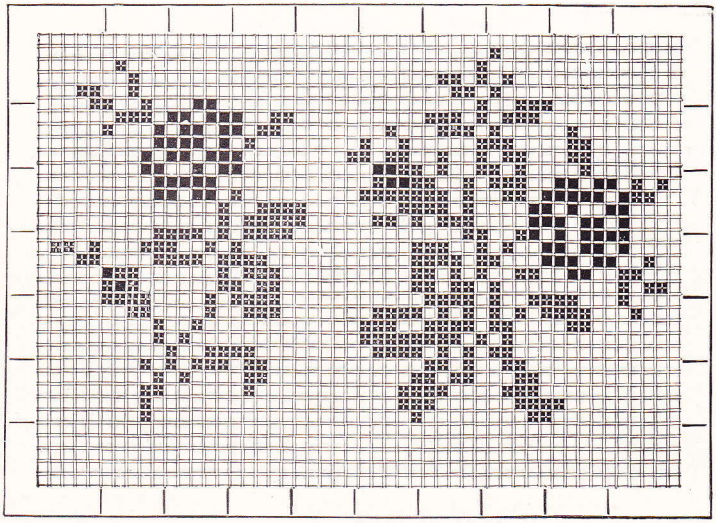
Rosebud and Leaves



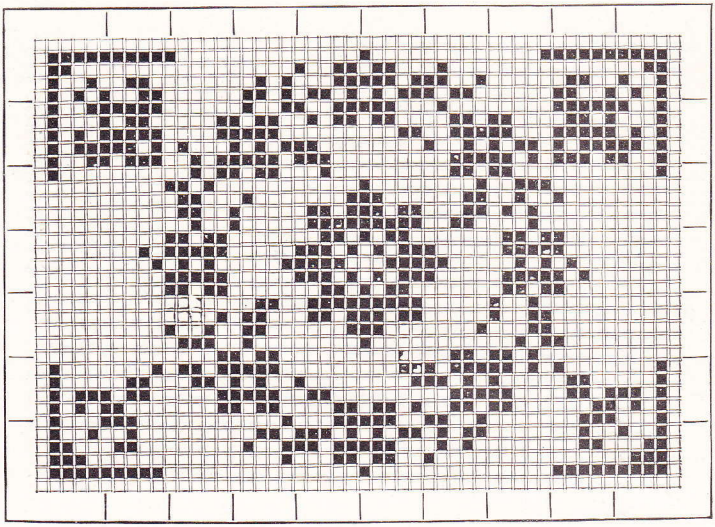
Rosebuds



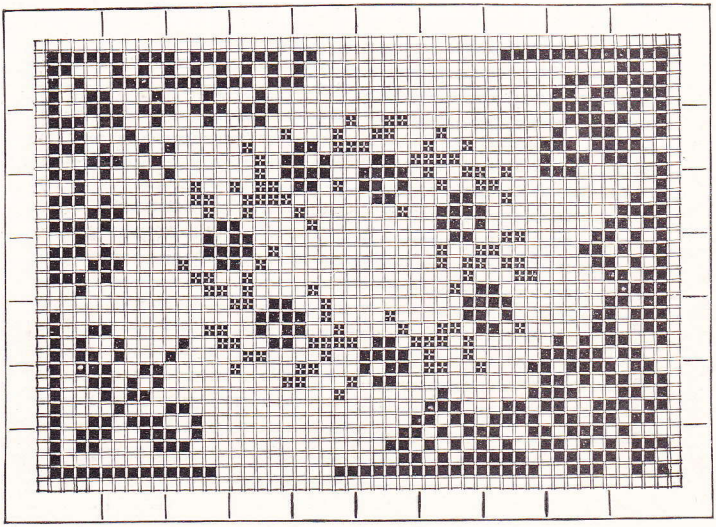
Forget-me-nots and Roses



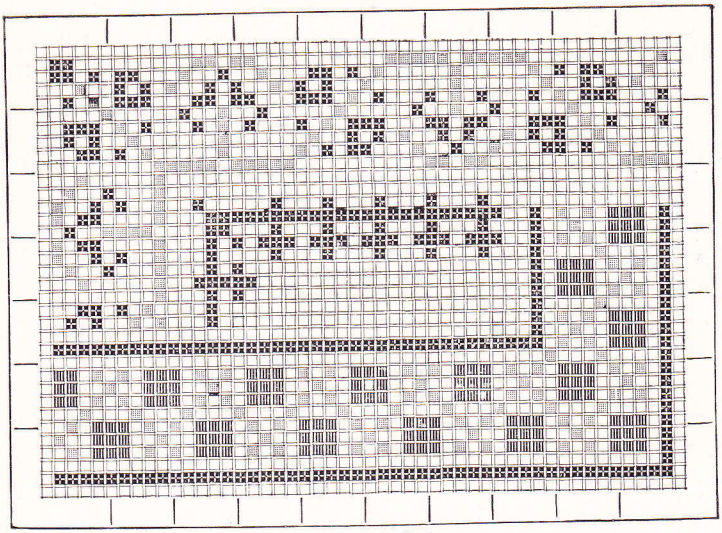
Rose Sprays



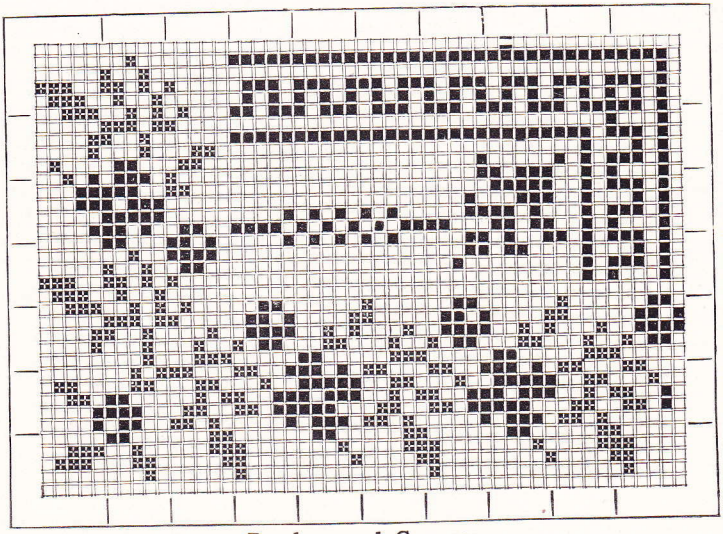
Rose Wreath and Corners



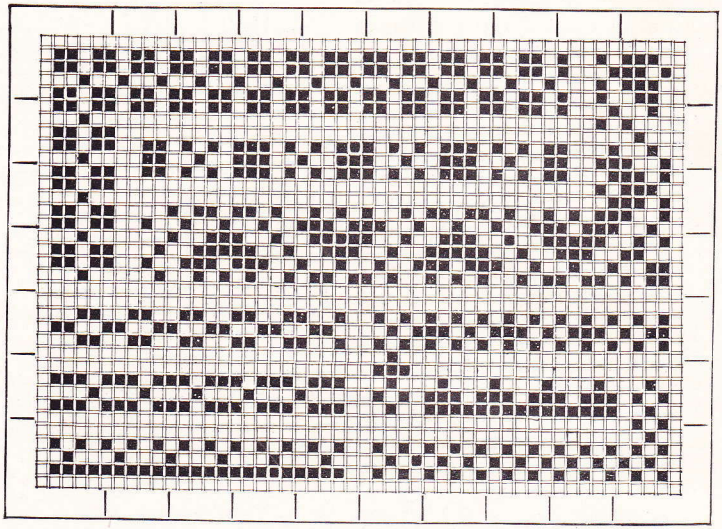
Forget-me-not Wreath and Corners



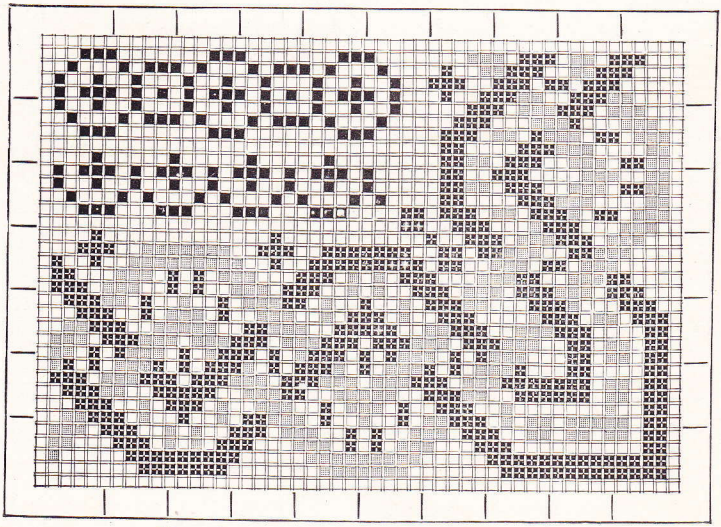
Borders and Corners



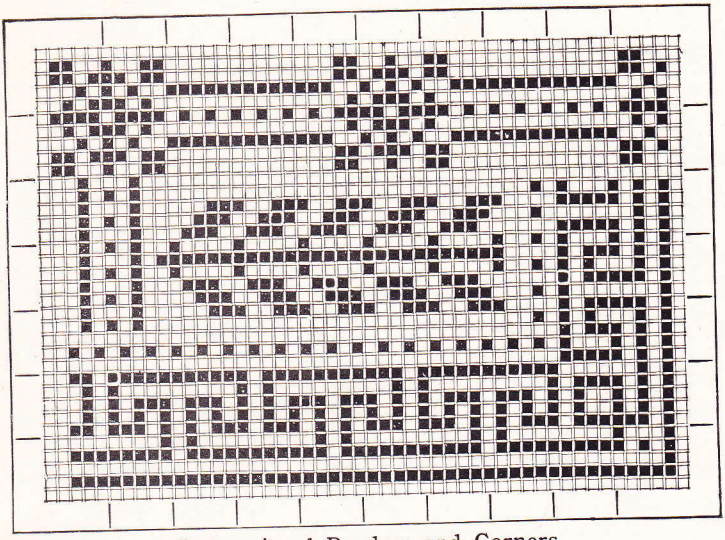
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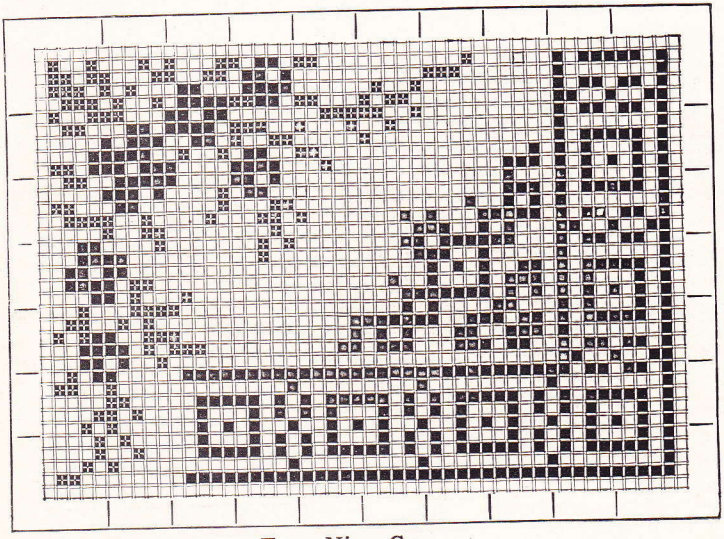
Simple Borders and Corners



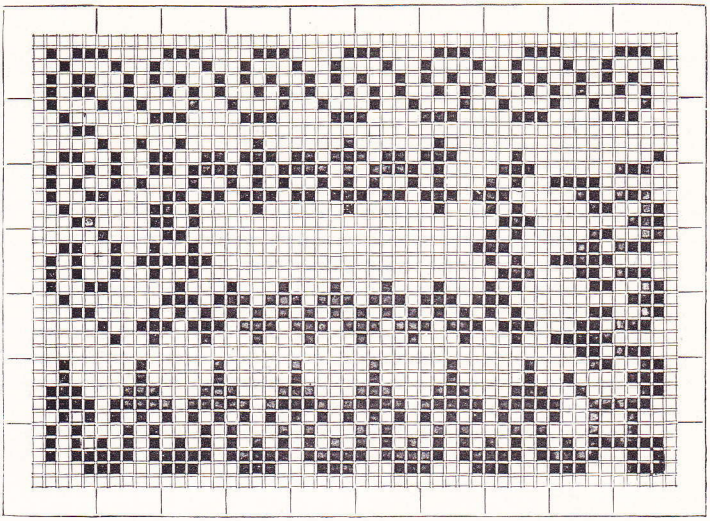
Interlaced Border for Two Colors



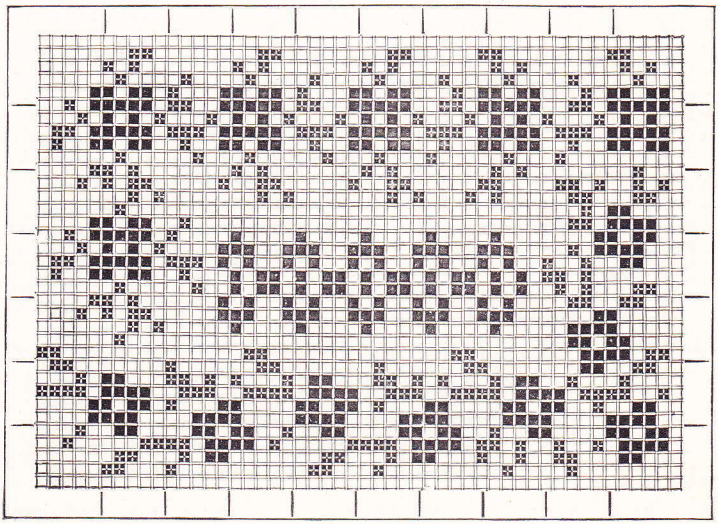
Conventional Borders and Corners



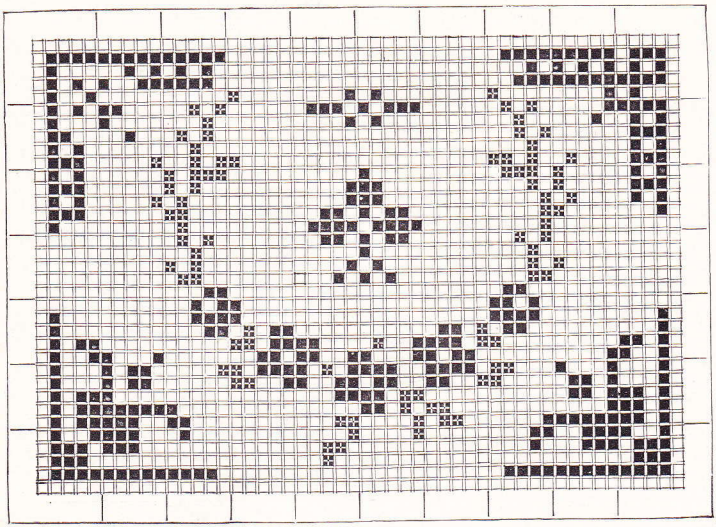
Two Nice Corners



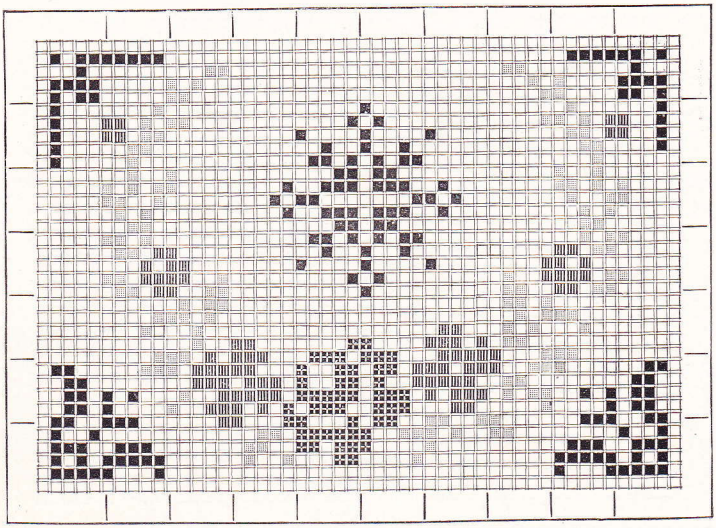
Borders for One or Two Colors



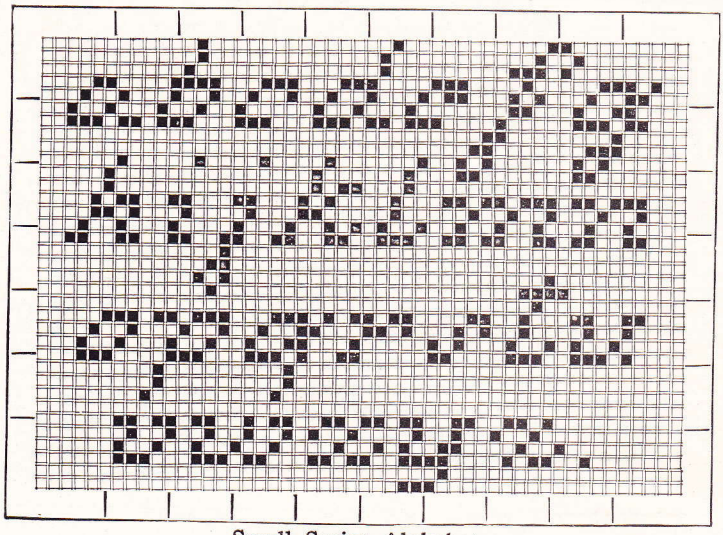
Borders for Two Colors



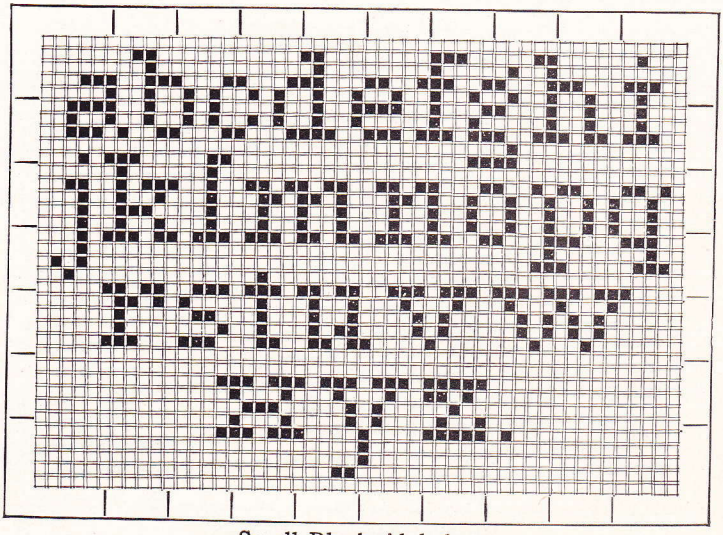
Wreath and Corners



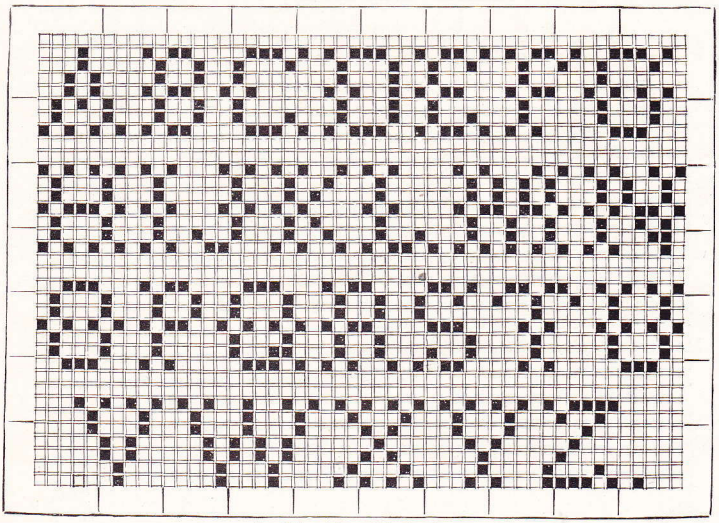
Rose Wreath and Corners



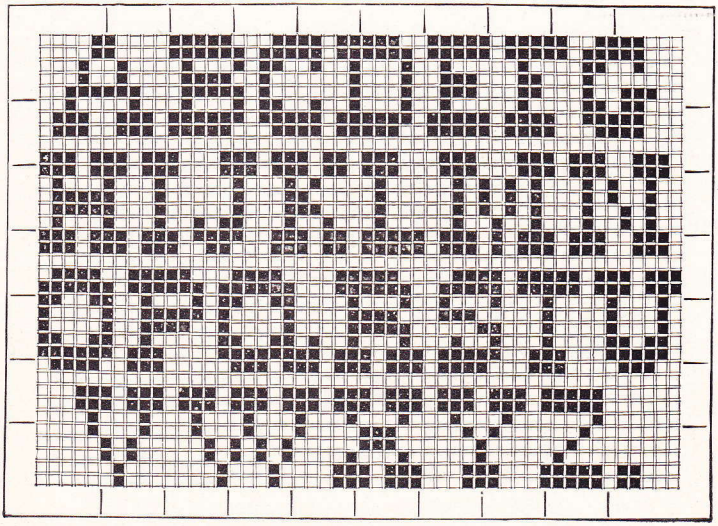
Small Script Alphabet



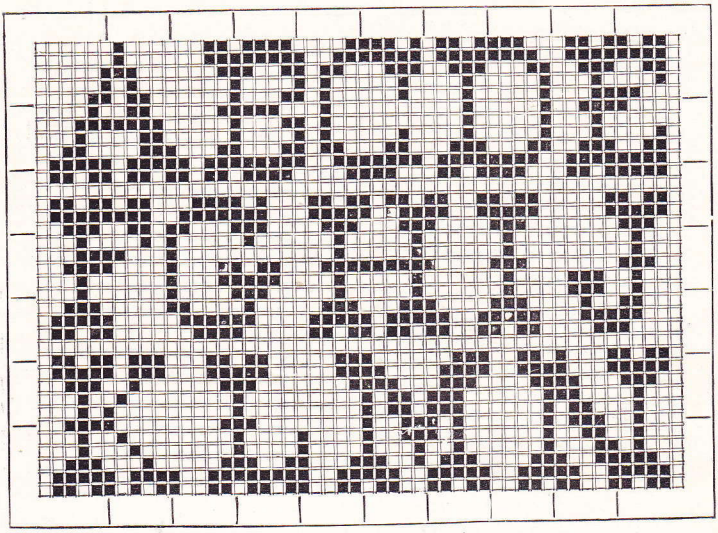
Small Block Alphabet



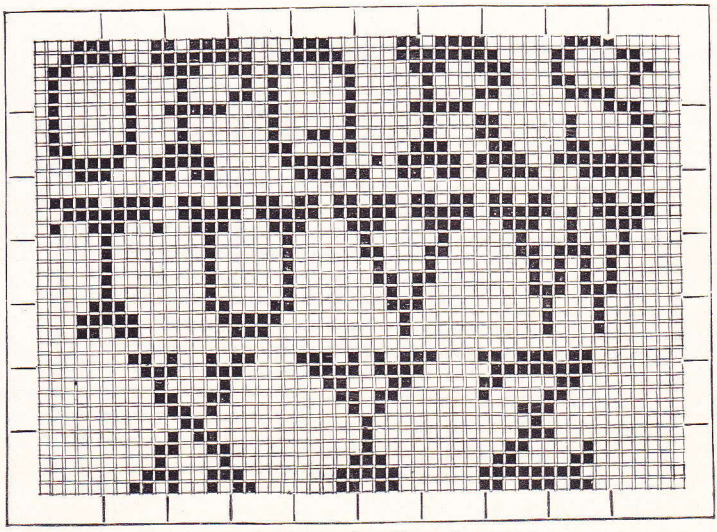
A Simple Alphabet



Capital Block Alphabet



Eleven-Mesh Alphabet



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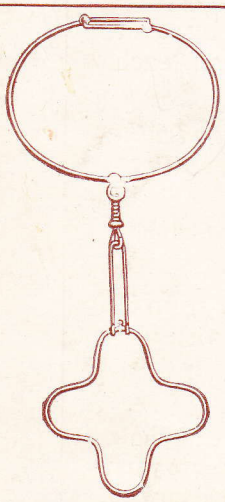
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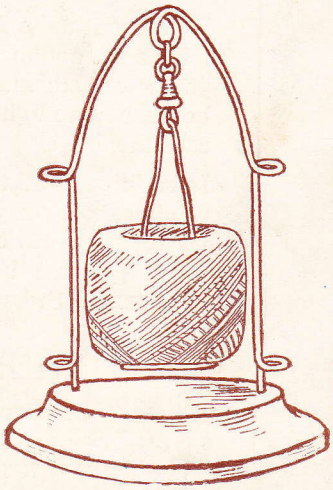
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